

## Message Text

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53

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01

USIA-15 AID-05 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02

COME-00 TRSE-00 MC-02 OPIC-06 /080 W

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P R 031641Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3822

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 4670

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (MCDONALD, LAWRENCE)

SUBJECT: CHILE: VISIT OF CONGRESSMAN LAWRENCE MCDONALD

1. CONGRESSMAN LAWRENCE MCDONALD (D.GA) ARRIVED SANTIAGO EVENING JULY 1, ON THREE-DAY VISIT AS OFFICIAL GOC GUEST DURING A TRIP SAID TO BE ORGANIZED BY "COUNCIL FOR LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS," A PRIVATE AMERICAN ORGANIZATION.

2. CONGRESSMAN MCDONALD HAD A HIGHLY PUBLICIZED MEETING WITH PRES. PINOCHET JULY 2, AND GAVE AN INTERVIEW TO PRESS AND MEDIA WHICH IS FEATURED IN JULY 3 SANTIAGO PRESS.

3. POINTS MADE BY THE CONGRESSMAN INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

A. THE US CONGRESS IS MISINFORMED (EXISTE DESINFORMACION) CONCERNING THE TRUTH ABOUT CHILE, AND ON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON THE CONGRESSMAN INTENDS TO REMEDY THIS BY MAKING A REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE AUTHORITIES.

B. HARMFUL REMARKS ABOUT CHILE HAVE BEEN HEARD AND REPEATED IN CONGRESS -- REMARKS DISSEMINATED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WITH SOVIET SUPPORT; THIS HAS UNDOUBTEDLY DAMAGED CHILE'S REPUTATION ABROAD.

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C. THE DISTORTED INFORMATION IN THE AMERICAN CONGRESS ABOUT

CHILE MAY BE COMPARED WITH THAT WHICH EXISTED CONCERNING FIDEL CASTRO IN 1958; CASTRO WAS THEN CONSIDERED "THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN OF THE CARIBBEAN AND THE ROBIN HOOD OF LATIN AMERICA". BUT FOUR YEARS LATER, WITHOUT ANY CHANGE IN CASTRO HIMSELF, CONGRESS HAD BECOME FULLY CONVINCED THAT HE WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A COMMUNIST AGENT. CONGRESSMAN MCDONALD EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT IN TIME CONGRESS WOULD UNDERSTAND WHAT CHILE HAD DONE AND IS DOING TO OVERCOME ITS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

D. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE WERE CONCERNED BY THE MILITARY IMBALANCE CREATED IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD THROUGH THE ACQUISITION BY PERU OF SUBSTANTIAL SOVIET WAR MATERIEL. MCDONALD CITED RECENT LETTER TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE SIGNED BY MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS REQUESTING THAT THE EMBARGO ON ARMS SALES TO CHILE BE ENDED.

E. MANY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE NOT STUDENTS OF INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS; THEY RECEIVE THEIR INFORMATION ON WORLD AFFAIRS THROUGH THE US PRESS WHICH DOES NOT REFLECT THE THINKING OF THE PEOPLE OF THE US BUT RATHER THAT OF SO-CALLED OPINION MAKERS.

F. US INVESTORS ARE INTERESTED IN CERTAIN SPECIFIC FACTORS SUCH AS STABILITY OF GOVERNMENT, RESPECT FOR PRIVATE PROPERTY, AND ADEQUATE CONTROL OF INFLATIONARY ELEMENTS; TO THE EXTENT THESE MATTERS CAN BE SATISFACTORILY HANDLED, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT PRIVATE INVESTMENT WILL GRADUALLY TAKE PLACE IN CHILE.

4. EMBASSY DID NOT RECEIVE ADVANCE NOTICE OF CONGRESSMAN MCDONALD'S ARRIVAL. AMBASSADOR IS SEEKING TO MAKE CONTACT WITH HIM.  
POPPER

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** OVIP, (MCDONALD, LAWRENCE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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